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22 May 1951

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR FOR SPECIAL OPERATIONS

SUBJECT: "Communist Party Capabilities Under Wartime Conditions"

25X1A2g

1. Subject report is a useful document clearly based on sound factual information. Among other things it reveals the gaps in our knowledge of Communist capabilities in certain countries and areas. It is believed that similar surveys on other geographical areas, particularly on strategically important areas, would serve good purpose.

2. With regard to the present report, it is felt that in dealing with the African regime more account might have been taken of the role of nationalist movements which are being currently exploited by the Communists. The mounting interest of the USSR in denying African resources to the West will probably lead to increasing attempts at Communist infiltration and control of local nationalist movements.

3. It is suggested that in future reports of this type the following additional aspects should be considered:

- (a) information about whatever is known concerning existing connections between Communist groups and USSR or Satellite missions or agents;
- (b) an estimate of area capabilities, since Communist capabilities in one country present only part of the picture. This is particularly so in the Middle East where a combination of Communist groups from the various Arab states might well change our evaluation of Communist potentialities when compared with those in individual countries.

WILLIAM L. LANGER
Assistant Director
National Estimates

AD/NE:WLL:fd
Distribution:
Addressee

Mr. [REDACTED] (w/subj document) 25X1A9a

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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Acting Chief, Estimates Staff
for Assistant Director, O/NE

DATE: 10 May 1951

FROM : 

SUBJECT: Comment on SO study on Communist Party Capabilities under
War Time Conditions

1. This is a worth while report. It would indeed be useful to initiate surveys on other geographical areas, particularly those in strategically important areas.


2. The report has also a negative usefulness in that it shows the gaps in our knowledge of Communist capabilities in certain countries and areas, and there are considerable gaps.

3. The factual information in the report is sound. Only in the African area this reviewer feels that reference should have been made to the role of nationalist movements which are being exploited by Communists. There is perhaps too much optimism because Communist Party strength in Africa seems negligible. Inroads have been made, however; and the mounting interest of the USSR in denying Africa's resources to the West will no doubt lead to increasingly strong attempts at infiltration.

4. It is suggested that in future reports of this type the following additional aspects be discussed:

(a) information about whatever is known concerning existing connections between Communist groups and USSR or Satellite missions or agents;

(b) an estimate of area capabilities, since Communist capabilities in one country present only part of the picture. This is particularly so in the Middle East where a combination of Communist groups from the various Arab states might well change our evaluation of Communist potentialities when compared with those in individual countries.

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MAY 7 1951

TO: The Assistant Director for Policy Coordination
The Assistant Director for Current Intelligence
The Assistant Director for Reports and Research
The Assistant Director for National Estimates ✓
The Assistant Director for Intelligence Coordination

FROM: The Assistant Director for Special Operations

SUBJECT: "Communist Party Capabilities Under Wartime Conditions"

1. The ^{25X1A2g} attached report, "Communist Party Capabilities Under Wartime Conditions", is forwarded for your information, evaluation and comment.

2. The report has been compiled in order to make available unevaluated opinions and estimates of foreign government officials dealing with security and investigative matters, on the subject of wartime capabilities of Communist Parties.

3. It will be appreciated if an indication could be given to this office concerning the usefulness of the report, and also whether similar surveys on other geographical areas are desired. Suggestions and recommendations on particular aspects or priorities to be considered in future reports will be gratefully received.

4. If there is sufficient interest, an attempt will be made to expand this series of reports. An early reply is requested.

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Encl: One copy of report

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